Software for Saint Vincent CIS Students

DreamSpark Store: Microsoft Software

The CIS Department has obtained a DreamSpark membership which gets us an online store providing the latest Microsoft development software for academic use. Note that Microsoft Office is not included. The CIS Department is permitted to allow its students to install this software on their own computers. Note that this privilege is being extended as a convenience to students. Students can also use the CIS lab for coursework. In the end, students' work must run on the CIS computers, so be sure to test your projects on the CIS machines.

Obtaining Microsoft Software

- All of this Microsoft software is handled online at the DreamSpark web store for the CIS department.
- You must be a CIS major or student in a CIS class at Saint Vincent in order to log into this web site. The department pays an annual fee to allow CIS students legal access to this software. Other students are not included. Do not try to give the software to a friend!
- Your username for this software web site is your Saint Vincent email address. Use this email address to log in. New students in a CIS class should receive a welcoming email message from the DreamSpark site at the beginning of the semester. This would arrive in your Saint Vincent email and have a subject line of something like "**An account has been created for you**". It will say that it is from "**Saint Vincent College - Computer Science - DreamSpark**" or something similar. If you did not get one, check with Dr. Serapiglia. This email message should contain your username (same as your Saint Vincent email address) and a link to click on to initialize your account.
- The software available includes popular items such as various versions of Window, Visual Studio, etc.
- You can download much of the software listed at the site. You can order media (essentially paying only for shipping) for some of the software. Both methods are available for certain software items.
- Follow the directions at the web site for downloading the software for free. Essentially it first downloads a small program to your PC. It is suggested that you download this small program to your desktop. Then you run this program, which in turn downloads the desired software. You can only install once due to the protections that this system provides. (If something goes wrong and you need to install again send an email message to Dr. Serapiglia asking for an additional download.)
- After you download a product, you should get an email message giving a summary of the transaction. Read it carefully as it may contain further installation instructions. For example, it may direct you to return to the web site, click on "My Software", and then click on the link for the product you selected in order to see a product serial number

which might be needed to complete the software installation.

- The web site will require you to agree to certain terms before downloading software. Do read through this to see what you are agreeing to.
- The download gave me a .iso file. What do I do with that? Visual Studio Usage Notes below for suggestions on how to handle this.
- Remember that you cannot give this software to anyone else. For one thing, the activation key only allows 1 install. This is also a legal requirement.
- Although the web site says that we provide technical assistance with the software, it is very minimal due to the small size of our dept. We might be able to provide a quick email to suggest a solution to a problem, but we must concentrate our main support efforts on the CIS lab itself. Thus you install and use this software at your own risk.
- When you are finished with a session at the site, be sure to click on the Logout button.
- Let us know if something is not working with this software distribution system.

Visual Studio Usage Notes

Downloading Visual Studio

If, as a student in one of our CS classes, you wish to install Visual Studio on your own computer, go to our [DreamSpark webstore](). Be warned that Visual Studio is large, so that the download might take a long time over a slow connection. The store also allows you to order the software on DVD for a small fee, so that might be the better choice.

If you do try the download, what you will get is an .iso file for burning onto a DVD. If you do not have a DVD burner in your computer, a previous student provided the following suggestions on how to deal with this: You could try to use virtual drive software such as [MagicISO](), or [Daemon Tools lite]() to mount the image to your computer and install from this "virtual CD". That method would allow you to not waste a DVD, and it would probably install several times faster since it doesn't have to read from the DVD drive. Another alternative would be to use a program like WinRAR to extract the files straight from the .iso file and then manually run the setup file. Getting one of these programs would be fairly beneficial in the future because more and more software vendors are offering .iso files to replace the physical media. I know there is a plethora of software available to you on the MSDNAA Academic Alliance Software Center alone and it is all distributed as .iso disk images.

Initialization on First Use

The first time you start Visual Studio on a particular CIS lab PC, it will ask you what type of development work you typically do. For most of our students the appropriate answer is probably C++. The choice seems to affect what is shown where in the menus of possible new projects. After making this choice it may take a few minutes for Visual Studio to run its initialization procedure. It should not ask again as long as you are using the same PC.

VMWare Software

The CIS Department can also provide you with access to a VMWare software online store where you can download VMWare products for free. For example, VMWare Fusion allows Mac users to run Windows (which you can obtain from the Microsoft software store mentioned above) in a virtual machine on their Macs. It may take some effort and ability to get all the software installed and configured correctly, but this can work well for students who are up to the challenge. Follow this link for our VMWare software store. Since only a few students are using VMWare, we do not automatically generate accounts for every CS student to access this site. If you have a need for this, contact Dr. Serapiglia for an account at this VMWare software store. Be sure to include the reason why you need the account. If the need is clearly course-related or tied in with the CIS major, there should be no problem in getting an account.